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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 61% Chance of Showers Sensex 73,961 | Nifty 22,530 | Gold 72,115 | Silver 94,168 | Dollar 83.40 | Euro 90.61 | GBP 106.16

HERITAGE RAZED

Citizens, conservers shocked, but govt apathetic as historic structure from 1800s destroyed

PAGE 3

LAKE DISRUPTED

Botched up lake rejuvenation at Yarandahalli has made area prone to flooding after rain

PAGE 4

BBMP's plan to construct 18km-tunnel road to connect Hebbal Esteem Mall Jn to Central Silk Board Jn will cost Rs 8,043 crore

PRICE OF TUNNEL VISION: ₹446.83 CRORE PER KM

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With the steel bridge project shelved, the next travel option for this route might be underground, at a depth of 20 to 45 metres, as new details of the tunnel road emerge. However, this first-of-its-kind tunnel road could come with a price tag of Rs 446.83 crore per kilometre.

With traffic congestion on the north-south corridor of the capital city worsening, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is planning to build tunnel roads. This project is estimated to cost Rs. 8,043 crore. A Turkish consultancy firm has been hired to prepare a feasibility report. The firm has completed and submitted the report, for which it received Rs. 4.70 crore. This project aims to facilitate smoother traffic flow and alleviate the current congestion issues on this crucial route.

BBMP Chief Engineer BS Pralhad said, "A feasibility study report has been presented for the proposed tunnel road. Based on this, we are planning to invite for a detailed project report. The tunnel road will follow the Metro road due to which there would be no damage to either metro lines or heritage buildings."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Worth it? 'Will alleviate severe traffic congestion'

> **A feasibility study report has been presented for the proposed tunnel road. Based on this, we are planning to invite for a detailed project report. The tunnel road will follow the Metro road due to which there would be no damage to either metro lines or heritage buildings**
>
> — BS Pralhad, BBMP Chief Engineer

Shrinking cycle

Just 3 km identified to build cycle tracks

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Even as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is planning 2.5-3km of cycle tracks along major road footpaths in the city, experts say the civic agency should try to use carriage width to make the tracks. They are also disheartened by the BBMP not being able to find much space to make cycle tracks.

The Major Road Department of BBMP has floated a tender for the development of cycle tracks and pedestrian facilities at the cost of Rs 5 crore.

"We are planning to develop cycle tracks on footpaths along major roads. Estimated, there will be 2.5km -3 km of cycle tracks along major road footpaths. The cycle track will be 1.5m wide," said a senior BBMP official.

There are nearly 470 major roads in Bengaluru and nearly 800km of major roads, but the BBMP has only been able to identify 2.5-3 km of road for cycle tracks. "We are not able to implement cycling tracks on longer stretches due to unsuitable width of footpath and fund crunches," he added.

However, the cycling community is irked by BBMP's lack of effort in identifying more space for cycling tracks. "Cycling tracks don't need to be seen separate from footpaths. Slow-moving traffic and fast-moving traffic need to be segregated. Cycles can easily run along with pedestrians. There is enough space on major roads to construct

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Artistic Varanasi

Dive into Varanasi's spiritual realm with Nikita Agarwal's captivating solo art exhibit, 'Ripples of Reflection'. Experience the city's timeless vibrancy through bold brushstrokes and dynamic forms, capturing the essence of Varanasi's ghats. Join the grand opening and explore this mesmerising fusion of tradition and modernity
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath;
When: June 6 to 10, from 11 am to 7 pm.

02 Musical tribute

A tribute to the late Ustad Rashid Khan, the maestro of Hindustani khayal music. 'Barsega Sawan' presents an evening of soulful melodies, featuring vocal recitals by Dr KS Vaishali, and Pandit Iman Das and a duet by Dr Suma Sudhindra and Ustad Shafique Khan. Witness budding talent Anusha's inaugural performance.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall;
When: June 14 5:30 Pm- 9;30pm

03 Morning melodies

Experience the magic of Morning Raag with Aniruddha Vyas at Jagriti Theatre. Delight in the soothing melodies of Jaipur Atrauli Gharana Raagas like Lalit, Vibhaas, and Deskaar. Participate in the celebration of classical music inspired by new beginnings and the dispelling of darkness
Where: Jagriti Theatre;
When: Sunday, June 16, 7:30 am

Tree falls, power outages, waterlogged streets, metro break submerged bus, traffic snarls — all thanks to 69 mm rainfall

Downpour brings city to screechy halt on Sunday

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1) Two cars damaged after a huge tree uprooted during huge wind and rain on Sunday evening at Jayanagara 4th block 7th main 34th cross junction in Bengaluru
2) Due to a tree fall on a Metro line, the Metro operations were disrupted on the pink line;
3) Metro passengers had to wait for hours in the absence of any public transport
4) Motorists struggle driving during heavy rain and wind

Traffic was paralysed and several vehicles were damaged due to tree falls as heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds battered Bengaluru City on Friday. According to the Met department, Bengaluru received 69 mm of rainfall. A BMTC bus carrying 25 passengers was half-submerged at an underpass near Kino Theatre. Vehicles behind the bus were also at risk of submersion. Local residents rushed to the scene to assist the commuters, helping them exit the bus and then pushing it aside.

A BBMP official stated that plastic waste and a rubber sheet had clogged the drains near Kino Theatre, leading to water stagnation. In many areas, fallen trees damaged bikes and cars, and a large tree fell on a pani puri stall. As many as 118 trees fell and 128 cases of branches falling were reported. Many areas in the city also reported power outages. Waterlogging was reported in Pattegarpalya, KP Agrahara, and other locations.

The Bengaluru-Mysuru Express Highway was inundated due to heavy rainfall, leading to significant waterlogging on the road. Overflow from a nearby lake caused flooding on the highway, resulting in an 8-km-long traffic jam. Commuters returning to Bengaluru were stranded, unable to move due to the deluge.

This flooding is not an isolated incident; a similar situation occurred in 2022. Despite assurances from NHAI officials to address the issue, the problem persists.

Metro disruption

Due to a tree branches falling on the metro tracks just after Trinity Station towards MG Road, operations of trains were limited between Indiranagar to Whitefield and MG road to Challaghatta beginning from 7:26 pm. "Efforts are on to clear the branch and resume normal operations. As of now short loops are running between Indiranagar, Whitefield and Challaghatta and MG Road. Inconvenience caused is regretted," Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said. Passengers, including women and chilren were stuck at the station for hours late into the night in the absence of any other means of trasport as cabs, autos and buses remained unavailable.

Meanwhile, there will be no respite as the Met department has forecasted more rain for Bengaluru. The city will experience a cloudy sky with moderate rain and thundershowers, with heavy rain expected in isolated places over the next few days. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 30°C and 20°C, respectively.

Currently, the Southwest Monsoon has advanced into additional parts of the central Arabian Sea, remaining parts of the Lakshadweep area, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, parts of Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Andhra Pradesh, the Southwest Bay of Bengal, and areas of the Central and Northwest Bay of Bengal. The Northern Limit of Monsoon passes through Mangaluru, Chitradurga, Nellore.

Part of heritage razed, govt apathetic

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PIC COURTESY: UDAY KUMAR PL

Last standing observatory of Great Trigonometrical Survey in Kannuru was destroyed

Heritage conservers are shocked at the state government's apathy over the last standing observatory of the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS) in Kannuru being razed down by unknown miscreants.

The GTS observatory at Kannuru was one of the last remaining such structures in the country. The GTS was conducted by the British to develop a map of India. On Sunday, the building dating back to the mid 1800s was razed down to rubble.

"The stone building was demolished around 11:45 am. The compound wall was also pushed away. Some residents saw an earth mover pull away from the site. We are planning to file a complaint at Bagalur police station," said Almitra Patel, a resident of the area.

Heritage conservers expressed shock at this development. "This observatory was part of the great mapping project of the 1800s. It was one of the biggest scientific endeavours in the world and it aimed to develop an accurate map of India. For this, two baselines were established at North East end at Kannuru and South West end near KG Tower, Mehkri Circle. There are only one or two such structures left in the country. From INTACH, we restored the structure 3-4 years ago after seeking permission from the revenue department. The state government should have preserved the structure," said Meera Iyer, convenor of INTACH.

Post the renovation, a few signboards were erected highlighting the significance of GTS and the site.

The GTS was conducted by British infantry officer William Lambton under the East India Company. Coincidentally, it also led to ascertaining the shape of the Earth as well as the measurement of Mount Everest as the tallest in the world.

City-based conservationist and historian, Uday Kumar PL, told BM about the significance of the GTS. "Bengaluru began to be recognised as the capital of science and technology not with the IT boom but with the GTS in the mid-1800s. The survey spanned over 130 years and led to the development of high-quality maps of India and supposed to be the costliest project than wars. When the Britishers struggled to capture Tipu Sultan, they understood that he was evading them with the knowledge of the land. They started the project 'Measurement of Madras to Bangalore'. The process required specialised equipment to be imported from England and would last at least 4 years. Meanwhile, Lambton started working on the measurement with some other equipment from Calcutta. To begin the survey, he established two baselines at two ends. The centre of the stones would have a crosshair and the distance between two crosshairs would be calculated using chains. The distance is supposed to be accurate to the 4th and 6th decimal points. The strenuous work took Lambton 52 days. It's also why this observatory is as sacred as the Taj Mahal for engineers in the city," he added.

After Bangalore, the survey went to Chennai, Bengaluru, and further to Mangaluru, Kanyakumari and so on. Lamenting about the poor state of the heritage sites, Kumar said, "The state of affairs of all historical sites is poor. The authorities, ASI and the Archaeological society of India are sleeping. The state government is falling short in its task to protect these sites. The culprits involved in the destruction should be punished," he added.

SIT launches hunt for Bhavani Revanna

The Special Investigation Team carried out searches at various locations in the last 24 hours looking for Bhavani Revanna, mother of suspended JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, in connection with a woman kidnap case as she was not present at her residence at Holenarasipura in Hassan district, sources said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said a search is on to "arrest" Bhavani, who is found "absconding". She is hiding somewhere and will be arrested soon, he added. "They (Special Investigation Team) are searching for her (Bhavani) to arrest her. It's not known where she is. She will be arrested once she is found. It is a due process of law and nothing else," Parameshwara told reporters here. **PTI**

Crackdown busts wheelie plans

A specialised team of police officers successfully conducted a night operation on Saturday. The operation, spearheaded by Police Inspector Yogesh ST, resulted in the seizure of three two-wheelers involved in dangerous wheeling activities on the Outer Ring Road.

It has been revealed that friends of the accused were involved in filming these reckless stunts and posting them on social media platforms, thus promoting dangerous behaviour.

In response, the police have issued stern warnings to the culprits, cautioning them against future violations. **BMB**

Township's monsoon struggles

Citizens blame unscientific lake rejuvenation for flooding roads

Locals express dismay over the unexpected outcomes of lake rejuvenation, facing sleepless nights and challenges with flooded roads during the monsoon, prompting complaints to local authorities

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Yarandahalli Lake's rejuvenation reportedly cost around Rs 95 lakh in 2022; A scene of the flooded RK Township

Approximately 4,000 families residing in and around RK Township at Yarandahalli express concerns about their safety during the monsoon season. Following Saturday's rainfall, the area resembles Sai Layout, known for flooding during heavy downpours in the city.

Citizens expressed surprise at the unexpected consequence of lake rejuvenation, resulting in sleepless nights during the monsoon. They recounted facing numerous challenges when local roads were inundated with industrial effluents from the nearby Jigani-Bommasandra industrial area last year.

"We were happy when conservationist and environmentalist Anand Malligavad and a corporate company organised meetings on the rejuvenation of the lake at Yarandahalli. Now, we are compelled to face problems due to unscientific rejuvenation of the water body," said YS Satish Chandra, president, of RK Township citizens welfare association.

He mentioned having already lodged a complaint with Hennagara Panchayat regarding road flooding during the monsoon. "The Panchayat officer initiated steps to clear silt from one drain, but it's crucial for all drains to be silt-free for effective rainwater flow into the lake," he emphasised, noting that currently, the drains fail to channel rainwater into the lake.

Expressing worry about the state of drains in RK Township, Nagaraj H Joshi, secretary of the RK Township citizens welfare association, emphasised the need for authorities to widen the stormwater drains to prevent rainwater overflow during the monsoon. "The current drains are insufficient to handle heavy rainfall, leading to overflow," he remarked, urging concerned authorities to address the issue promptly. Despite approaching Hennagara Panchayat and detailing the drain conditions, no action has been taken thus far, Joshi lamented.

Meanwhile, Nachu, a long-time occupant, highlighted her experience of residing in the area for the past eight years. "I never encountered waterlogging issues before the water body's rejuvenation. Previously, rainwater would clear from roads within an hour, but now, it takes longer due to flooding," she observed. Nachu noted that despite facing fewer issues last year due to the city's highest rainfall deficit, the current situation poses challenges.

Yarandahalli Lake's rejuvenation reportedly cost around Rs 95 lakh in 2022. When reached for comment, Siddaraju, the Development Officer of Hennagara Panchayat, cited election-related commitments but assured to address the issue promptly. "I will look into the problem and do the needful to avoid flooding in and around RK Township," he said.

Eco-friendly run celebrates 10 years

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The Anandayana running event, hosted by the RunnersHigh group, that has maintained a zero-waste status for over six years celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Anandayana's approach to a zero-waste run is both innovative and effective. With over 1,000 participants joining the 10 km and 5 km runs, the event leaves no ecological footprint. Unlike other running events that rely on disposable items like plastic bottles, Anandayana prioritises sustainable alternatives. Raj from the Indian Ploggers Army, a regular partner in this event, highlights the unique practices: "No goodies like t-shirts are given. Instead, a cloth bib is used and returned. All runners receive a cloth bag, and refreshments, including water and energy drinks, are served in stainless steel tumblers."

By eliminating single-use plastics and encouraging the use of reusable materials, Anandayana sets a benchmark for other events. The involvement of the plogging community underscores the importance of these practices. "From an environmental perspective, the Indian Ploggers Army always partners and plogs with others," Raj said. "The plogging community always encourages zero waste gatherings, especially at running events where the dynamics vary from regular household gatherings."

The absence of prizes and the focus on fun and fitness rather than competition also reflect a shift towards more holistic and community-focused values. "There are no prizes for the event as it's not a race but more of a fun run," Raj noted.

A volunteer added, "The zero waste initiative highlights the importance and feasibility of sustainable event management. It demonstrates that with thoughtful planning and community support, large events can be both enjoyable and environmentally responsible."

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Encroachment alert
Shamana garden

The public road near the MICO Post Office in Shamana Garden has become unsafe and inconvenient due to encroachments on government property. Citizens, who pay property taxes annually, are urging the BBMP to take immediate action.

Stone Barrier
Kalyan Nagar

Stones are blocking the car passage on Kalyan Nagar 2nd Cross, opposite the park. This obstruction affects public access, as the footpath is public property. Action is needed to restore traffic flow.

Trash overload
HAL

The road leading to L B Shastri Nagar, HAL, is plagued by severe garbage accumulation and an unbearable stench. The area is in urgent need of attention to address the overwhelming waste problem.

Scammers create fake profiles to extort victims via their contacts

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In a new cyber scam trend, scammers are now creating fake WhatsApp profiles to extort money from people, following their previous scams on Facebook and Instagram. A recent case highlights the severity of this issue, involving a renowned chartered accountant and insolvency professional who fell victim to such fraudulent activities.

Initially, a fake Facebook account was created using the professional's name and photos. The scammers then escalated their tactics by setting up a WhatsApp account with the same stolen images. These fake profiles were used to send friend requests and messages, presumably to deceive and extort money from his contacts.

The victim then informed all his contacts about the fake profiles and advised them not to respond to any suspicious messages.

"I also received a message on my WhatsApp where the person was asking about my GPay and PhonePe account information. The person pretended to be my friend, but was using my name and my picture in their WhatsApp profile," the victim told BM.

Authorities are urging the public to remain vigilant against such scams. They recommend verifying the authenticity of any unexpected communication, especially those requesting money or sensitive information.

Another resident who almost got scammed said that in today's world, everyone has access to information about everyone, making it difficult to identify scammers.

"In my case, my friend always created new IDs on Instagram and used several numbers on WhatsApp. Her account was public, so everyone had her information, including her contact number. One day, I received a message from her profile picture and name saying she needed money urgently. Thinking she might be in trouble, I transferred five thousand rupees to a scanner she sent in the chatbox. I later realised I had sent the money to a scammer," said the victim.

Experts suggest that if someone is receiving a message from an unknown number with their friend's profile picture and name, they should first verify and then interact.

Disability rights not in politicians' radar

KS Rajanna, who was bestowed with Padma Shri last month by President Draupadi Murmu, expressed disappointment with the apathy and negligence of politicians and elected representatives towards the welfare of persons with disabilities in the state.

Dr Rajanna was the chief guest at a notebook distribution event organised by Bharatinagar Residents Forum on Sunday. Sandalwood actress Sharanya Shetty and social worker Basavaraj were the guests of honour.

Dr Rajanna told BM politicians have been busy discussing and distributing pen drives and have no time to discuss or mitigate the problems of persons with disabilities.

Expressing disgust over the negligence of elected representatives, Dr Rajanna said nobody visited or wished him for being honoured with Padma Shri.

"The Karnataka Government has to emulate neighbouring states, especially Telangana, which honour people bestowed with Padma Shri. I will continue to work for the welfare of persons with disabilities till my last breath. There is a lot to be done for the betterment of persons with disabilities in the state," he said.

Sandalwood actress Sharanya Shetty said she was happy to attend the programme.

"I thank the organisers of the event for inviting me," said Shetty.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

Owners of old vehicles unable to get HSRP

Some vehicle manufacturing companies shut shop, adding to problem; govt urged to clarify guidelines

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Even though the deadline for the installation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) was May 31, the State Government has informed the High Court that it won't take any penal action until June 12, as only 19% of vehicles in the state have installed HSRP. However, there are numerous technical challenges in installing HSRP. Many vehicle owners are facing difficulties because some vehicle manufacturing companies have closed down, making it impossible for them to obtain the required HSRP. Companies like Java, Yezdi

, Ford, Kinetic Honda, Willys, and others have shut down, leaving owners of these vehicles in a predicament.

The Central Government has made HSRP mandatory for all vehicles registered after 2019, citing security concerns. The State Government has also implemented this order, and new vehicles have been affixed with HSRP at showrooms since 2019. However, owners of vehicles purchased before 2019 are facing difficulties in obtaining HSRP, especially if their vehicle's manufacturing company has closed down.

Pradeep Nair, owner of a vintage car, said, "The government's move to make High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) mandatory aims to improve vehicle security and prevent the counterfeiting of number plates. However, the closure of several vehicle manufacturing companies has created a challenge for owners of older vehicles, who are now struggling to obtain the required HSRP. To address this issue, the government has provided an online portal where owners of older vehicles can apply for HSRP and pay the required fee. The portal allows owners to select their vehicle's company and apply for HSRP, but it does not include the names of all the closed companies, causing confusion among vehicle owners."

Sources said that the government has authorised certain agencies to manufacture and supply HSRP, but these agencies are not producing HSRP for vehicles from closed companies. This has left owners of such vehicles in a difficult situation, as they are required to affix HSRP within the specified deadline to avoid penalties. The challenges faced by owners of older vehicles in obtaining HSRP due to the closure of vehicle manufacturing companies and the lack of clarity in the government's guidelines have been raised multiple times.

When contacted, Additional Commissioner of the Transport Department (Enforcement) C. Mallikarjun said, "This issue continues to cause significant inconvenience, highlighting the need for clear and inclusive guidelines to assist vehicle owners in complying with the new regulations."

So far, out of the over 2 crore vehicles in the state, only 36 lakh vehicles have complied. Guidelines from the Transport Department state that certain transactions at RTOs, such as change of ownership, address modification, duplicate RC issuance, insurance updates, fitness approvals, etc., cannot proceed without HSRP affixation in the state. The department warns against counterfeit HSRP plates lacking unique laser codes and security features like high visibility in low light.

HSRP serves as a security measure with embossed unique numbers, holograms, and other elements to enhance vehicle identification and security. It became mandatory for all new vehicle registrations from April 1, 2019, to deter theft and misuse.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

'Not interested'

CM Siddaramaiah recently sparked controversy with his remark that no one from Karnataka would become the next Prime Minister. Following widespread debate, he offered a clarification: "During a recent program, a journalist asked if I was in the race to become the next PM," he explained to the media. "I merely stated that I am not in the race and would never want to be. However, my words were misconstrued to imply that no one from Karnataka is qualified to become the next PM. I want to clarify that there are indeed many eligible candidates from Karnataka, just not me." When pressed to name these eligible candidates, Siddaramaiah declined to comment further, saying it would only fuel more rumours.

Black magic clarification

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's recent comments about black magic in Kerala stirred up quite a commotion, but he swiftly clarified his stance the next day. Amidst a flurry of media attention, he clarified to journalists, "My statement has been misconstrued. I never said that the black magic ritual 'Shatru Bairavi yaaga' against me and the CM was carried out in the Raja Rajeshwara temple in Kerala but I had clearly mentioned the rituals took place in a private land near the temple." Addressing concerns raised by a Kerala minister regarding animal sacrifices in temples, he emphasised, "I have great respect for God's own country, its temples, and the people. My statement has been misunderstood. I did not mean to hurt the sentiments of anyone."

Hairstyle debate

The recent clash between government and opposition factions has taken an unexpected turn, centering on the grooming choices of Madhu Bangarappa, the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education. This incident began when BJP state unit president BY Vijayendra humorously criticised the minister's long hairstyle. Vijayendra questioned the example set by Madhu's unkempt appearance, especially considering the influential role an education minister plays in shaping student behaviour. In response to this playful jab, Madhu swiftly countered by pointing out the unique hairstyle of former President APJ Abdul Kalam. He expressed his surprise at the personal nature of the criticism, wondering aloud whether a minister's hairstyle should be a major point of contention. Madhu also highlighted the positive feedback he had received from students who admired his well-groomed appearance and questioned why students were not permitted to have long hair like his.

Disciplining crowd

At a recent event commemorating the death anniversary of former PM Jawaharlal Nehru, the dais was crowded with numerous officeholders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the front row. Amidst the background chatter, DK Shivakumar, visibly agitated, approached the microphone and reprimanded them, expressing his intolerance for indiscipline. He emphasised that the role of office bearers was to engage with the crowd, welcome guests, and manage the event from the ground, not stand on the dais. Despite initial reluctance from some, he took action to ensure they understood their place at the event.

'Mass' blocking

In the midst of rising honey trap scandals and instances of politicians engaging in inappropriate conversations over the phone, Minister for Cooperation KN Rajanna reveals his cautious approach to unexpected calls, particularly from women. "I am extremely vigilant whenever I receive a call from an unfamiliar number, especially if it's from a woman," he disclosed to journalists. "One can never be too careful about potential plots against me. That's why I swiftly disconnect the call and block the number. If you're curious, I can even show you the long list of blocked numbers on my phone."

-Sridhar Vivan

Cracker ban on election result day?

Call for politicians to promote sapling planting instead of pollution amidst victory celebrations

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environmentalists have demanded that authorities ban the bursting of crackers on June 4, when the Lok Sabha election results are scheduled to be announced. They wrote letters to the Deputy Commissioners of all districts across the state, emphasising the need to prohibit the activity on that day.

"I want the politicians and elected representatives to convey a message to their followers not to burst crackers on June 4. The politicians have to encourage their supporters to celebrate the victory by planting saplings on World Environment Day. The celebrations should be held in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere," said Nagesh Hegde, an environmentalist.

Expressing concern over the imminent pollution of the environment on June 4 if politicians allow their followers to burst crackers, Jhansi Lakshmi Rani K, an environmentalist from Chamarajpet, stated, "Bursting of crackers will not only cause noise pollution but also increase heat and carbon dioxide. Let the politicians plant saplings on June 6 for the betterment of the environment."

Parvathi Sriram, an environmentalist from Koramangala, echoed a similar sentiment, saying, "The bursting of crackers would be a health hazard and also cause sound pollution. I want the supporters of winning candidates to celebrate the victory by planting saplings. All types of crackers, including green crackers, will cause sound pollution."

Meanwhile, Mahesh Basapur, a member of Parisarakkaagi Naavu, mentioned that members of the organisation across the state wrote letters to all the candidates who contested the Lok Sabha elections and political parties, appealing to them not to burst crackers on June 4. "We have submitted a memorandum to all political parties during the Lok Sabha elections. Bursting of crackers issue was not included in the memorandum. We want politicians to celebrate their victories in an environmentally friendly atmosphere," said Mahesh Basapur.

BM Finance Fundas

Consumer Connect Initiative

DA hike raises gratuity limit for central govt employees

The Centre's decision to increase its employees' dearness allowance by 4% to 50% has led to a significant revision in other allowances, including retirement gratuity, which is a huge boon for government employees.

Retirement gratuity and death gratuity The maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity has been increased by 25%, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, effective January 1, 2024.

According to the Office Memorandum (OM) dated May 30, 2024, "Accordingly, as per the Government's decisions in implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh CPC, the maximum limit of Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 or the Central Civil Services (Payment of Gratuity under National Pension System) Rules, 2021, would be increased by 25% i.e. from Rs 20.00 Lakh to Rs 25.00 Lakh, with effect from 1st January 2024."

Previously, the same announcement, which was initially made on April 30, 2024, was put on hold on May 7 with the following statement: "The circular number HRD-1/8/2024/Misc-Circulars-Part(1)/1004 dated 30.4.2024 is kept in abeyance with immediate effect."

Initial order

According to the Office Order dated Ministry of Labour and Employment,

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Govt of India dated April 30, 2024, "As per para 6.2 of the OM no. 38/3712016-P&PW(A)(1) dated 04.08.2016 issued by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, the maximum limit of Retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25% whenever the dearness allowance rises by 50% of the basic pay. Accordingly, the maximum limit of Retirement gratuity and death gratuity shall be increased by 25% to Rs. 25 Lakh from existing Rs 20 Lakh on account of revision of Dearness Allowance payable to Central Government Employees to 50% of the basic pay w.e.f 1.01.2024, subject to other conditions mentioned in the DoP&PWOM dated 04.08.2016."

DA hiked to 50%

The Central government increased the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 4% in March 2024. This was a major relief for millions of central government employees and pensioners. Due to this hike in DA to 50%, various components of a central government employee's salary also increased.

What is gratuity?

Gratuity is a defined benefit plan given by the employer to the employee for rendering services continuously for five years or more.

According to the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, an employee can receive gratuity if he has rendered continuous service for at least five years with an organisation. This gratuity is payable to the employee- a) On his superannuation, or b) On his retirement or resignation.

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Palestine: Violated for expressing solidarity?

Students, activists allege forceful detention, manhandling by police

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Activists and students who had gathered in Frazer Town to raise awareness regarding the state of Gaza alleged that they were manhandled by the police and forcefully detained.

Acquilin, a student who was part of the campaign and witnessed the alleged police violence, told Bangalore Mirror that those who were gathered to conduct an awareness campaign had not even begun to speak to people when the police began to approach them. "We had just gathered at a tea stall to drink tea, when the police both in uniform and civilian clothes, approached us and began to videotape us. When we questioned their actions, they began to detain us. Initially, there were only male policemen present in the vicinity and they alone carried out the detaining while female police only joined later," she explained. "They violently put people into the van and brutalised them while being transported," she added.

She further noted that activists gathered at another location to raise awareness were also detained. "We were initially told that all the detained persons were being taken to Freedom Park. One group of people were brought to Pulikeshi Nagar police station whereas we did not know the whereabouts of the other detainees for an hour and a half. They were also finally brought to the police station. Over 13 of us were detained and their being let out is yet to be ascertained. The police are going on to register FIRs against them," she said. She expressed anger that though they had not raised slogans or conducted themselves in a way that attracted any attention, they were subjected to violence by the police.

This is not the first incident where the police have detained those who have tried to hold events in solidarity with Palestine. Hundreds of citizens and activists of Bengaluru had gathered at the MG Road Metro station in October last year, in a bid to spread awareness regarding Palestine.

As of now, it is illegal to protest anywhere but in the premises of Freedom Park in the city after passing of the Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) Order in 2022.

Vehicles using this road must pay toll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Based on this report, a tender will be floated soon for the construction of the tunnel road. The proposed underground road, spanning 18 km, will connect Hebbal Esteem Mall Junction to Central Silk Board Junction. An official said, "This project aims to provide a hassle-free journey for commuters traveling from the southern parts of the city to Kempegowda International Airport.

The underground road will run parallel to the metro rail route and feature three lanes on each side, with a provision for double-decker roads.

This development is expected to significantly alleviate the severe traffic congestion currently plaguing the city, offering a much-needed solution to the frequent traffic jams."

Price tag

The estimated cost of constructing an 18-km-long underground road from Hebbal Esteem Mall Junction to Silk Board Junction is a whopping Rs. 8,043 crore, with an estimated cost of Rs. 446.83 crore per kilometre. Vehicles using this road will be charged a toll.

Designed to facilitate travel at speeds of 35-40 km per hour, the road will feature five entry and exit points: Hebbal Esteem Mall Junction, Aramane Road, Golf Course Road, Jayanagar Ashoka Pillar, and Silk Board Junction.

The construction will use tunnel boring machines, similar to those used for the east-west corridor metro rail tunnel. A feasibility report for the project has been prepared, and tenders for construction will be invited soon.

"The cost of building one km of underground road is estimated to be around Rs. 446.83 crore. Vehicles using this road will be charged a toll. The road is designed to allow vehicles to travel at a speed of 35-40 km per hour," added an official.

Criticism doesn't matter

The tunnel road project has faced criticism, with many questioning its feasibility due to the enormous expenditure involved. However, the State Government remains steadfast in its decision to proceed. Previously, the State Government sought support from the Centre for the project.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had presented a proposal for a 60-km urban tunnel, aiming to establish East-West and North-South corridors within the city, linking major arterial roads and alleviating surface traffic. Government officials argue that the tunnel road will save surface space, maintain aesthetics, reduce noise and air pollution, and minimise disruption and displacement.

The Government of Karnataka aims to collaborate with NHAI for the tunnel road and has urged the Centre to allocate funds for the project in the upcoming central budget.

'There is enough space, if BBMP knew where to look'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cycling tracks but there is a lack of vision and will for its implementation," said Sathya Sankaran, Bengaluru Bicycle Mayor.

He added that BBMP should conduct public consultations and use designs from urban designers to incorporate cycle tracks. "As per the active mobility bill, there should be nearly 600 km of cycle tracks. This proposal of 2.5-3km of cycle track provision is inadequate. There are 1,000s of people commuting to work daily. There is no shortage of space with major roads with multiple lanes. Can't the BBMP provide 1.5m space for cyclists? However, roads within city limits cannot be seen as highways. Spaces like cycle tracks should be seen as decongestion strategies for the city," added Sankaran.

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I, Suresha Singh Balaji R/o 80/81, TF-7, Surabhi enclave, Jnanabharathi Lyt, 2nd stage, Mariyappanapalya, B'luru 560056 have changed my name to Suresh Singh Balaji Affidavit Dt.01/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Gurjit singh karel, S/o Jarnail singh karel R/o No 11, 3rd main 3 cross Iyappa Temple block Viveknagar post Bangalore 560047 Have changed my minor son's name from Tushar to Tushar singh karel For all future purposes

I Sumanth Shetty S/O, K Vasanth Shetty R/o #sb-11, Vijay Enclave, Vijaya Bank Layout, Billekahalli, Bg Road, Bangalore -560076 have changed my name to Sumanth V Shetty.

I, Aarthi W/o Laxman Vishan Singh R/o No.4/1, 4th Floor, 2nd cross, Obaiah Lane, Chickpet, Bengaluru 560053 have changed my name to AARTI affidavit Dt.01/06/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

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HEALTH TIP: Catechins, which is a class plant compound found in matcha tea, act as a natural antioxidant

Colourful bell peppers are a great option to incorporate when it comes to introducing Vitamin C-rich foods to your diet, especially red ones

BangaloreMirror 9
Monday, June 3, 2024
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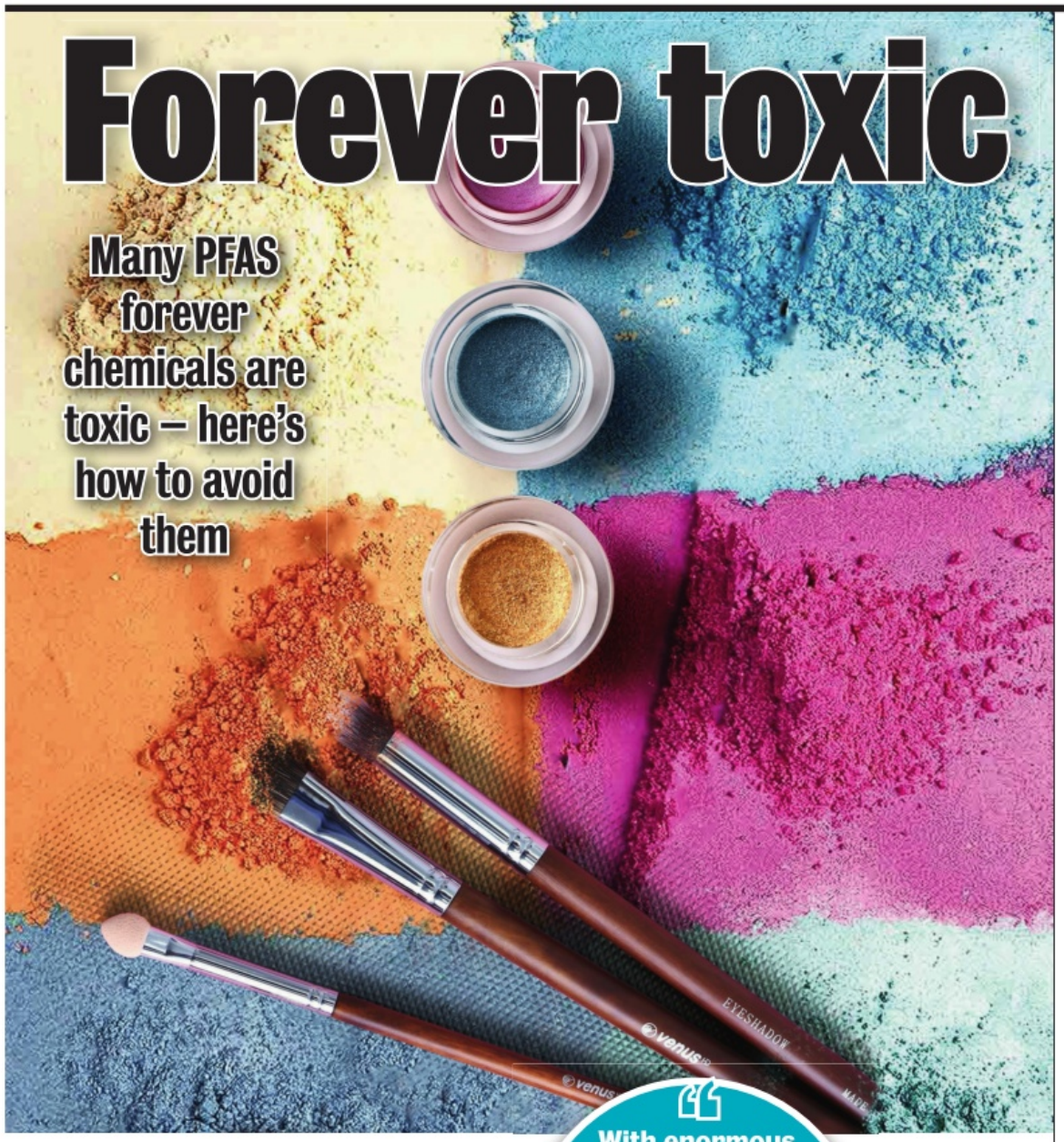
Forever toxic

Many PFAS forever chemicals are toxic – here's how to avoid them



From non-stick frying pans to stain-resistant sofas, some of the most innovative everyday products are made using chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

These "forever chemicals" – so-called because they don't degrade – have been used in a variety of consumer and commercial applications since the 1950s. They can repel water and oil, resist high temperatures and act as "surfactants" by helping different types of liquids mix.

There are around 15,000 different PFAS chemicals. Each one has a slightly different chemical composition, but they all have at least two carbon-fluorine bonds. These extremely strong bonds mean that PFAS don't readily break down. So the bond that affords PFAS some of its unique characteristics also causes them to build up and persist in our bodies and the environment for decades.

In 2020 alone, sales of fluoropolymers (a sub-group of PFAS) exceeded 39,000 metric tonnes in Europe alone. With enormous volumes of PFAS continually entering the world, these extremely persistent chemicals don't get the chance to degrade before more are added. Unsurprisingly, it gets everywhere, from rainwater and snow through to soil and groundwater. As a result, PFAS has built up in the food chain and in humans.

It's impossible to avoid PFAS exposure entirely – they are pretty much everywhere. But you can substantially reduce your exposure by avoiding contact with items directly treated with non-essential PFAS and opting for PFAS-free alternatives wherever possible. Here are four types of products to look out for.

> **With enormous volumes of PFAS entering the world, these extremely persistent chemicals don't get the chance to degrade before more are added**

1. Stain-resistant textiles

Carpets, sofas, cars – these are all places we spend a lot of time, and if the fabric we are in contact with has been treated with PFAS, this represents an opportunity for exposure. People can be exposed to PFAS through ingesting dust that has been in contact with these products as well as through direct contact and absorption through the skin.

Traditionally, stain-proofing products have contained at least one PFAS, including the now banned perfluorooctane sulphonic acid (PFOS) or perfluorohexanesulphonic Acid (PFHxS), or another similarly structured PFAS. When buying carpets and sofas, save money and don't take out the additional stain-proofing option unless there is a guaranteed PFAS-free option.

2. Food packaging and cookware

PFAS are used to make takeaway boxes, grease-proof paper, plastic containers and even disposable plates and bowls.

Avoiding takeaways and disposable packaging will probably reduce your exposure to PFAS. If you like to batch cook or make packed lunches for your kids, try to use reusable containers that are stated to be PFAS-free on the label.

PFAS is also found in lots of non-stick cookware. As these are heated up, become scratched or the surface starts to wear, PFAS can migrate from the pan and into the food being prepared. It makes no sense to dispose of all your pots and pans immediately, but once the non-stick coating starts flaking, replace them with PFAS-free options such as ceramic, stainless steel or cast iron.

3. Outdoor clothing

PFAS have been used to provide waterproofing properties to outdoor clothing such as coats, gloves and trousers. But studies have shown that they do not stay in the treated products and slowly migrate out over time.

Many brands, including Patagonia, The North Face and Columbia, now make PFAS-free options (check labels for more information). If you are re-treating an old item that has lost its waterproofing properties, make sure you check to see that it is PFAS-free. Nikwax TX and Grangers Performance Repel Plus both state they are PFAS free.

4. Cosmetics

PFAS are routinely used in cosmetics, including foundations, concealers, blemish balms, lip liners as well as cleansers, hair and shaving products. This is concerning as a recent study shows that cosmetics can sometimes increase the ability of PFAS to pass through the barrier of human skin and into the human body.

Some brands offer PFAS-free products, including H&M and Sephora, but many major brands are still producing cosmetics containing PFAS.

Proceed with caution

There is still a huge amount unknown about the toxic effects of PFAS. There are so many variations, some probably cause very little harm and are not particularly persistent. Others are the opposite.

Some PFAS are potentially toxic to humans with some links to cancers, brain development and reproductive problems, hormone disruption, diabetes and obesity.

Animals are susceptible to the toxic effects of PFAS. Their presence in oceans can interfere with the ocean's carbon cycle by interfering with various processes including reducing photosynthesis. This in turn can lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions and a subsequent contribution towards climate change.

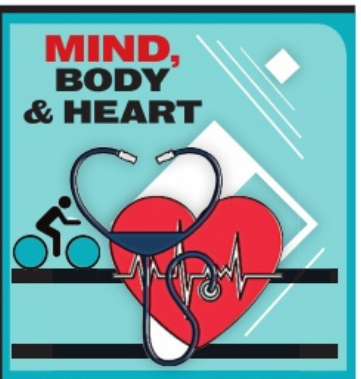
PFAS as a class should be treated with far more caution than they have been up to now. The most well-studied PFAS (including PFOS, PFHxS and another called perfluorooctanoic acid or PFOA) are now-banned globally under the UN Stockholm Convention, while bans are being considered for several other PFAS.

The PFAS-contaminated waste management industry is estimated to be worth USD 2 billion (£1.57 billion) but remediation isn't an easy option. PFAS would most likely breakdown during energy recovery incineration due to its extremely high temperatures, but this is not ideal as it prevents recycling and reuse of valuable materials.

The US has recently implemented nationwide drinking water limits, while the UK has no statutory limits. In 2022, the Drinking Water Inspectorate – the water quality regulator in England and Wales – released guidance on safe PFAS levels.

These are good first steps but more drastic action is needed to develop chemicals with a better understanding of their safety before mass production. The best way to reduce people's exposure would be to remove PFAS from the market altogether, but this will take time.

(By Daniel Drage, University of Birmingham, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

4 ways to destress

Journaling
When you feel stressed or are unable to get a grip on changing life events, it is time to try your hand at journaling. Recording your thoughts, experiences and feelings which you cannot express to anyone, in particular, can help you vent and offload. Whether writing a daily diary or maintaining a to-do list, journaling can give you a sense of organisation which reduces stress and anxiety.

Exercising
Scientifically proven, working out helps release happy hormones which reduces stress and tension. It releases endorphins which help improve and better our mood. Exercising regularly improves the sleep pattern too. If you aren't up for anything strenuous or rigorous, try yoga and meditation. While yoga is all about mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing, meditation helps relax the mind and control breathing.
Pursuing Hobbies
Having one hobby and immersing yourself in it may work wonders in reducing stress levels. Choose one activity you always loved to do—cycling, swimming, painting, dancing or anything that makes you happy. Practice it to keep yourself occupied and unwind whenever you feel emotionally worked up! Ut is a great way to divert the mind in a different direction.

Say NO to caffeine and nicotine
Stop using tobacco, nicotine and caffeine. Caffeine and nicotine are both believed to reduce stress. However, caffeine elevates cortisol and prolonged levels of cortisol cause chronic stress and nicotine puts more stress on the body by causing troubled breathing and hampering blood circulation. So go on a caffeine-nicotine detox to have a healthier mind and body.

– Sukriti Shahi, Femina

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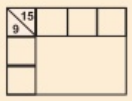
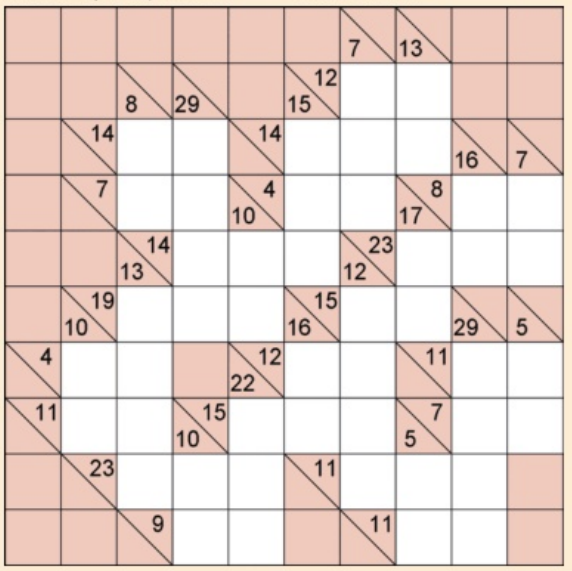
Kakuro

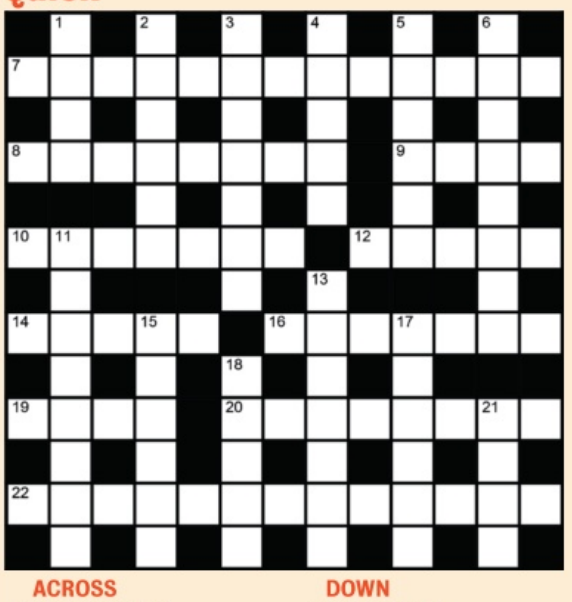
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Corroborations, verifications (13)
8 Compiled, organised or arranged (8)
9 Part of the foot (4)
10 Boastfulness; selfishness (7)
12 Tomb (5)
14 Fishing boat (5)
16 Hangs around (7)
19 Too (4)
20 Small birds (8)
22 Forebodings (13)

DOWN

1 Policemen (4)
2 Exertion or attempt (6)
3 Beastly, cruel and inhumane (7)
4 Golfer's helper (5)
5 Farther up (6)
6 A rapid preliminary inspection? (4-4)
11 Risk takers (8)
13 Gigantic or colossal (7)
15 Select, opt for (6)
17 ___ City: Bangalore of course (6)
18 Utilizing (5)
21 Accompanying (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS D

VUM'Z RUUG OUE AUEK TU-MUPE ZTCM JUPE RKCEMWMI AKEWZF.

Linemaro

I want to live in your socks and be with you every step of the way

Mindchow

One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.

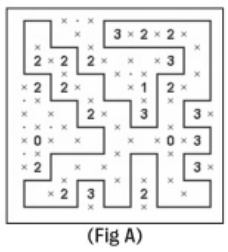
Joke of the day

Alcohol: A liquid good for preserving everything except secrets

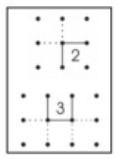
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



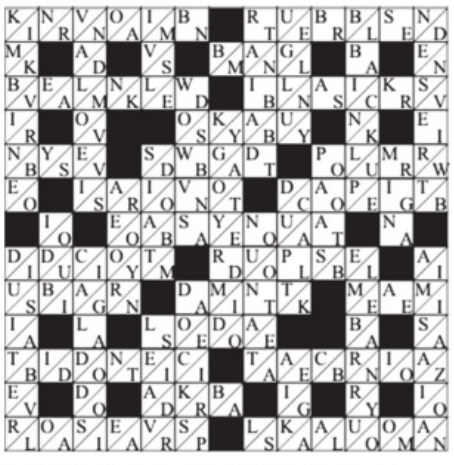
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

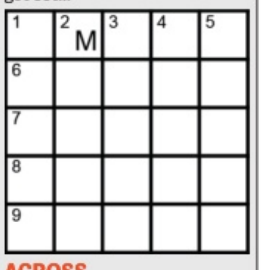
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

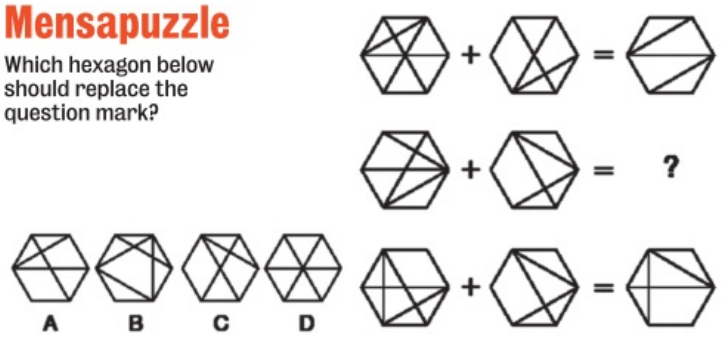
1 RA Bum; 6 I call; 7 In tat; 8 No ore; 9 Argue

DOWN

1 Lutra; 2 Ma IOU; 3 LB Gin; 4 An ere; 5 Croat

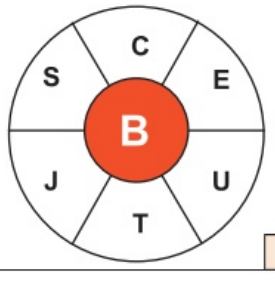
Mensapuzzle

Which hexagon below should replace the question mark?



A B C D

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2		9			4	
			7			5		3
6		4		2				
1			3		4	8		
	3						6	
		9	5		8			1
				8		3		6
5		6			2			
	4			5		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

2 3 7 8

Medium = 14

3 3 7 7

Hard = 13

4 6 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

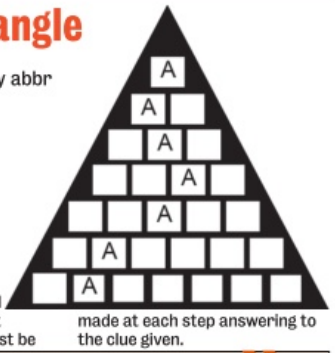
Differences: 1. Bag is smaller. 2. Thumb is moved. 3. Line is added to sidewalk. 4. Shirt is longer. 5. Mouth is open. 6. Collar is different.

Riddler

Do not begrude this, For it is the fate of every man. Yet it is feared, And shunned in many lands. Causes problems, and sometimes gaps, Can hobble the strongest, and make memory laps. What is this danger we all face? For being a part – of the human race.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 Forbid
4 Tolerate
5 Loud noise
6 Hoi polloi
7 Dilettante

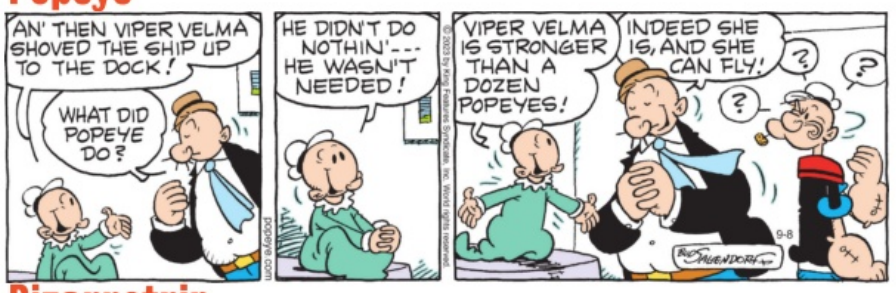


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


AN' THEN VIPER VELMA SHOVED THE SHIP UP TO THE DOCK!
WHAT DID POPEYE DO?
HE DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'--- HE WASN'T NEEDED!
VIPER VELMA IS STRONGER THAN A DOZEN POPEYES!
INDEED SHE IS, AND SHE CAN FLY!

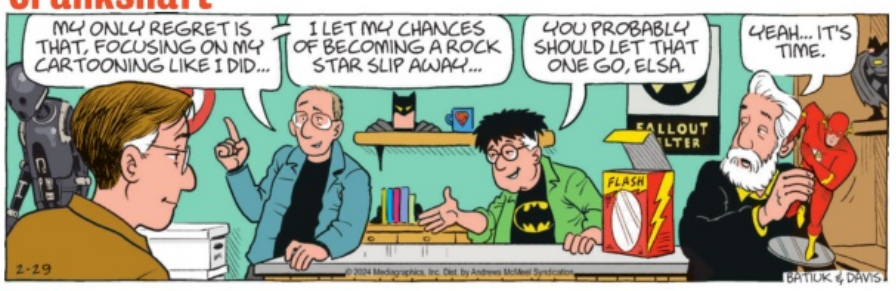
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

OH, GOOD, YOU'RE BACK! I FOUND PICTURES FROM YOUR THIRD GRADE PLAY!
YOUR DAD BARELY MADE IT. HE WAS IN TRAFFIC FOR SO LONG... I TOLD HIM TO LEAVE EARLY!
OH, YEAH... HE WAS AT MY FIRST PLAY EVER.
IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE! THAT AND YOUR FIRST LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY.

Crankshaft


MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT, FOCUSING ON MY CARTOONING LIKE I DID...
I LET MY CHANCES OF BECOMING A ROCK STAR SLIP AWAY...
YOU PROBABLY SHOULD LET THAT ONE GO, ELSA.
YEAH... IT'S TIME.
FALLOUT SHELTER
FLASH
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may resolve many problems with the help of your way of speaking. You may also plan to pursue higher studies to enhance your skills, which may be beneficial for your career in the near future. Lovebirds may enjoy their romantic moments. You may be able to control your opponents and rivals. You may also plan for a house or vehicle loan.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with your kid's education and might travel for it. You may also plan for a change in your current job or higher education to enhance your career. Additionally, you may hear some good news regarding a job interview. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may likely experience a change in your place or position.
It's advised to read any document carefully before signing.
Be cautious about your parents' health. Investments in risky assets may lead to losses, so it's suggested to postpone making investments for a few days.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may bring energy and prompt decision-making in your business. Your subordinates may help you complete your project before time, increasing trust in the environment. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job holders may receive incentives such as promotions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may need to control your straightforwardness as it may affect your relationships. You may plan to renovate your house and spend on buying artifacts. Enjoy some social events to increase your network. Consider investing in your family business.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel healthy and confident after a good sleep, blessed by the moon. Old health issues may be resolved. Helping someone in need may increase your respect. Enjoy every moment of the day.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, affecting your work.
There may be delays in your projects, leading to arrogance.
Avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Lovebirds may face some challenges.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may likely receive a big order, enhancing your business. Expect benefits at work with the help of influential people. Promotions and suitable job offers may come your way. Consider renovating your house or office to enhance your status.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy at work, leading to mental fatigue and possibly missing family events.
Your efficiency may be praised by seniors, leading to potential promotions. Maintain domestic harmony despite work pressure.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by elders, resolving past issues and starting stalled projects.
You may plan a religious trip or overseas travel, increasing your inner strength. Money stuck may be recovered.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, negative moon influences may make you upset and arrogant, expect sudden changes in routine.
Postpone investments to avoid losses. Use this time for self-exploration and introspection.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, leading to the recovery of stuck money and financial health improvement. You may lead a project at work and receive incentives like promotions. Improve mutual understanding with your spouse for domestic harmony.

KIDZONE

Mansi. R Chhabria, 8 Years, Baldwin Girls High School

Ishita Singh, 8 Years, Delhi Public School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$[(\sqrt[4]{2^4} \cdot \sqrt[3]{3^5}) / (\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt[4]{2^2})] = 1/2$
$[(2 \cdot 3) / (\sqrt{x} \cdot 4)] = 1/2$
$[(3 / (2\sqrt{x}))] = 1/2$
$2\sqrt{x} \cdot 1 = 3 \cdot 2$
$2\sqrt{x} = 6$
$\sqrt{x} = 3$
$x = 9$

RIDDLER Growing old

BULL'S EYE
best, bust, cube, stub, SUBJECT, tube

FAST FIVE

U	M	B	R	A
L	I	L	A	C
T	A	I	N	T
R	O	N	E	O
A	U	G	E	R

STRIKE OUT

L	O	S	E	R	S	S	A	L	O	O	N			
B	I	O	N	I	C	T	A	B	R	I	Z			
A	L	L	O	D	E	B	A							
S	I	G	N	D	I	N	T	M	E	M				
I	D	I	O	M	D	O	L	S	E	A				
	I	E	A	S	Y	N	U	T	A					
E	S	A	I	N	T	C	O	P	I	T				
B	Y	E	S	W	A	T	P	U	R	R				
I	V	O	K	A	Y	K	E							
B	A	L	K	E	D	B	L	A	C	K	S			
M	A	V	M	A	G	A	E							
I	N	V	A	I	N	R	U	B	B	E	D			

QUICK

S		E		G		C		N		H				
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	I	M	E	N	T	S		
E		O		I		N		D		I				
A	L	S	O		S	P	A	R	R	O	W	S		
S	M	A	C	K		L	I	N	G	E	R	S		
B		H		U		T		A						
E	G	O	T	I	S	M		G	R	A	V	E		
		A		H		T		E						
A	S	S	O	R	T	E	D		H	E	E	L		
		R		I		V		E		O				
C	O	N	F	I	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	S		
		E		B		C		H		O				

MENSA PUZZLE
D: lines are carried forward from the first two squares to the third square, except when two lines appear in the same position in the first two squares, in which case they are cancelled out.

QUOTE UNCODE
Don't look for more honour than your learning merits.

SUDOKU

3	7	2	1	9	5	6	4	8
9	8	1	7	4	6	5	2	3
6	5	4	8	2	3	9	1	7
1	2	5	3	6	4	8	7	9
4	6	9	5	7	8	2	3	1
2	9	7	4	8	1	3	5	6
5	1	6	9	3	2	7	8	4
8	4	3	6	5	7	1	9	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Ar, Bar, Bear, Blare, Rabble, Dabbler.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$5 + 8 - 7 - 2 = 2$
Medium
$3 \times 7 / 3 + 7 = 14$
Hard
$4 + 7 - 4 + 6 = 13$

LOOP

KAKURO

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